

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

DANNY COLON,

Plaintiff,

v.

9:09-CV-1006 (LEK/GHL)

C.O. D. PORLIAR; C.O. A. COLVIN; C.O. G. WARNER;
C.O. F. DELUKE; C.O. S. BAXTER; C.O. K. COPELAND;
C.O. J. KITCHNER; R.N. C. BURDEN; N.P. T. NASMITH;
DR. THOMPSON; and M. McCARTIN,

Defendants.

APPEARANCES:

DANNY COLON

96-A-2756

Sing Sing Correctional Facility

354 Hunter Street

Ossining, NY 10562

Plaintiff, *pro se*

LAWRENCE E. KAHN

United States District Judge

DECISION and ORDER

The Clerk has sent to the Court a civil rights Complaint, and an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*, submitted for filing by plaintiff Danny Colon (“Plaintiff”).¹ Dkt. Nos. 1, 2.

I. INITIAL SCREENING

Because Plaintiff sets forth sufficient economic need, the Court finds that Plaintiff may properly commence this action *in forma pauperis*. Dkt. No. 2. Having found that Plaintiff meets the financial criteria for commencing this case *in forma pauperis*, the Court must now consider the sufficiency of the

¹ Plaintiff has one other action pending in this District. See Colon v. Green, et al., 9:03-CV-1535 (LEK/DRH).

allegations set forth in the complaint in light of 28 U.S.C. §§ 1915(e) and 1915A. Section 1915(e) of Title 28 of the United States Code directs that, when a plaintiff seeks to proceed *in forma pauperis*, “(2) . . . the court shall dismiss the case at any time if the court determines that – . . . (B) the action . . . (i) is frivolous or malicious; (ii) fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted; or (iii) seeks monetary relief against a defendant who is immune from such relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). Thus, even if a plaintiff meets the financial criteria to commence an action *in forma pauperis*, it is the court’s responsibility to determine whether the plaintiff may properly maintain the complaint that he filed in this District before the court may permit the plaintiff to proceed with this action *in forma pauperis*. Id.

Likewise, under 28 U.S.C. § 1915A, a court must review any “complaint in a civil action in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity” and must “identify cognizable claims or dismiss the complaint, or any portion of the complaint, if the complaint . . . is frivolous, malicious, or fails to state a claim upon which relief may be granted; or . . . seeks monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b); see also Carr v. Dvorin, 171 F.3d 115, 116 (2d Cir. 1999) (per curiam) (Section 1915A applies to all actions brought by prisoners against government officials even when plaintiff paid the filing fee); Abbas v. Dixon, 480 F.3d 636, 639 (2d Cir. 2007) (stating that both sections 1915 and 1915A are available to evaluate prisoner *pro se* complaints).

In his Complaint, Plaintiff alleges that Defendants Porliar, Deluke, Copeland, Baxter, Colvin, and Kitchner used excessive force against him in retaliation for Plaintiff filing a lawsuit against Correctional Officer M. Bezio. Dkt. No. 1 at 3. Plaintiff further alleges that Defendants Nasmith, Burden, and Thompson denied Plaintiff medical care in deliberate indifference to his serious medical needs. Id. Finally, Plaintiff alleges that Defendant Assistant Attorney General McCartin failed to

protect Plaintiff from a known danger. Id. For a more complete statement of Plaintiff's claims, refer to the Complaint.

A. C.O. G. Warner

The Complaint does not allege the personal involvement of defendant C.O. G. Warner in any wrongdoing. In fact, the Complaint mentions C.O. G. Warner only in the caption and listing of Defendants, **but fails to allege in the body of the Complaint any act or omission by Warner.** Where a person is listed as a defendant, but the body of the complaint fails to indicate what the defendant did to the plaintiff, dismissal is appropriate. Gonzalez v. City of N.Y., No. 97 CIV. 2246, 1998 WL 382055 at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Jul. 9, 1998); see also Crown v. Wagenstein, No. 96 CIV. 3895, 1998 WL 118169, at *1 (S.D.N.Y. Mar. 16, 1998) (mere inclusion of warden's name in complaint insufficient to allege personal involvement); Taylor v. City of New York, 953 F. Supp. 95, 99 (S.D.N.Y. 1997) (same). Because Plaintiff has failed to allege any personal involvement on the part of C.O. G. Warner in a constitutional deprivation of any of Plaintiff's rights, C.O. G. Warner is dismissed **without prejudice.**

B. Assistant Attorney General McCartin

Plaintiff alleges that Assistant Attorney General McCartin "was notified on the Deposition transcripts that [Plaintiff's] life was in danger & [Plaintiff] should not be in [Great Meadow Correctional Facility]" but despite this, McCartin "failed to protect" Plaintiff.² Dkt. No. 1 at 3. The [Eighth] Amendment imposes a duty on *prison officials* to guarantee the safety of inmates. See, e.g.,

² It appears that Plaintiff's deposition was held at Great Meadow on March 1, 2007 and Plaintiff was allegedly assaulted at Great Meadow on March 7, 2007. See Dkt. No. 1 at 3.

Pagan v. County of Orange, New York, No. 99 Civ. 12319, 2001 WL 32785, at *2 (S.D.N.Y. Jan. 4, 2001). Plaintiff is a prisoner under the custody and control of the New York State Department of Correctional Services. Defendant McCartin is employed by the New York State Attorney General's Office. Plaintiff has alleged nothing to plausibly suggest a duty of care on the part of Assistant Attorney General McCartin to protect Plaintiff from harm at his correctional facility. Moreover, even if Plaintiff could demonstrate some kind of duty on the part of McCartin, McCartin would have no authority to transfer Plaintiff to another facility. Plaintiff has failed to state a cause of action against Defendant McCartin and therefore McCartin, and all claims against him, are **dismissed without prejudice**.

In summary, Defendants Warner and McCartin, and all claims against them, are **dismissed without prejudice**. The Complaint is otherwise accepted for filing as to the remaining claims and Defendants. **The Court takes no position on the merits of the remaining claims at this time.**

II. CONCLUSION

WHEREFORE, it is hereby

ORDERED, that Defendants C.O. G. Warner and M. McCartin, and all claims against them, are **DISMISSED without prejudice** from this action for the reasons set forth above; and it is further

ORDERED, that Plaintiff's *in forma pauperis* application (Dkt. No. 2) is granted.³ Upon receipt from Plaintiff of the documents required for service of process, the Clerk shall issue summonses and forward them, along with copies of the Complaint, to the United States Marshal for service upon

³ Plaintiff should note that he will still be required to pay fees that he may incur in this action, including but not limited to copying and/or witness fees.

the remaining Defendants.⁴ The Clerk shall forward a copy of the summons and Complaint by mail to the Office of the New York State Attorney General, together with a copy of this Decision and Order; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Clerk provide the Superintendent of the facility designated by Plaintiff as his current location with a copy of Plaintiff's authorization form, and notify the official that this action has been filed and that Plaintiff is required to pay to the Northern District of New York the entire statutory filing fee of \$350.00 pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Clerk of the Court shall provide a copy of Plaintiff's authorization form to the Financial Deputy of the Clerk's Office; and it is further

ORDERED, that a response to Plaintiff's Complaint be filed by the Defendants or their counsel as provided for in the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure after service of process on the Defendants; and it is further

ORDERED, that all pleadings, motions and other documents relating to this action be filed with the Clerk of the United States District Court, Northern District of New York, 7th Floor, Federal Building, 100 S. Clinton St., Syracuse, New York 13261-7367. **Any paper sent by a party to the Court or the Clerk must be accompanied by a certificate showing that a true and correct copy of it was mailed to all opposing parties or their counsel. Any document received by the Clerk or the Court which does not include a certificate of service showing that a copy was served upon all opposing parties or their attorneys will be stricken from the docket.** Plaintiff must comply with

any requests by the Clerk's Office for any documents that are necessary to maintain this action. All

⁴ The Defendants to be served are Porliar, Colvin, Deluke, Baxter, Copeland, Kitchner, Burden, Nasmith, and Thompson.

parties must comply with Local Rule 7.1 of the Northern District of New York in filing motions.

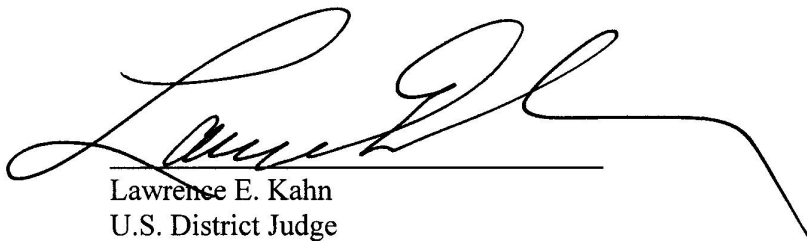
Plaintiff is also required to promptly notify the Clerk's Office and all parties or their counsel of any change in Plaintiff's address; his failure to so may result in the dismissal of this action. All

motions will be decided on submitted papers without oral argument unless otherwise ordered by the Court; and it is further

ORDERED, that the Clerk serve a copy of this Decision and Order on Plaintiff.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

DATED: September 21, 2009
Albany, New York



Lawrence E. Kahn
U.S. District Judge